

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 4566; (B) LISBON 4493

SUMMARY: DISMISSAL STATEMENT BY GENERAL PINTO SOARES IS BEING EXPLOITED BY COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS AND J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, WHICH HAVE STRESSED PINTO SOARES' CRITICISM OF MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. INJURIES IN AUGUST 10-11 VIOLENCE IN BRAGA NOW TOTAL 30 TO 50, WITH AT LEAST ONE DEAD. MORE THAN A DOZEN MORE PERSONS WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED AUGUST 11 IN OTHER INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN AREA NORTH OF LISBON. SOCIALISTS ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 12 SUPPORTING COPCON DECISION NOT TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST TWO REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS WHO SIGNED MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. PS HAS SCHEDULED DEMONSTRATION AUGUST 12 IN
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EVORA IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL PEZARAT CORREIA. PS WILL LEND ITS

SUPPORT TO WHAT IS HOPES WILL BE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT SENTIMENT AT CHURCH-SPONSORED CELEBRATION IN FATIMA ON AUGUST 13. ULTRA-LEFT UDP HAS SUMMONED SUPPORTERS BACK FROM VACATIONS TO FACE POSSIBLE MOVE BY "REACTIONARY FORCES." DANISH PRIME MINISTER ARRIVED IN LISBON AUGUST 11 FOR SHORT VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL PINTO SOARES' CRITIQUE OF BOTH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) AND MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS MORNING AUGUST 12 (REFTEL A). AS EXPECTED, HEAVY EMPHASIS WAS PLACED UPON PINTO SOARES' CHARGE THAT ACTION BY MELO ANTUNES AND HIS COLLEAGUES WAS "DISLOYAL" AND "DIVISIONIST."

2. VIOLENCE: REPORTS OF INJURIES FROM AUGUST 10-11 VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT IN BRAGA CONTINUE TO COME IN. INJURY TOTAL NOW IN THE 30 TO 50 RANGE WITH AT LEAST ONE DEATH REPORTED. ELSEWHERE IN NORTH, MORE VIOLENCE OCCURRED AUGUST 11. -- IN VISEU, MORE THAN A DOZEN PERSONS WERE WOUNDED BY PCP GUNFIRE DURING ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON PCP OFFICES. COMMANDER OF LOCAL POLICE WAS AMONG THOSE HIT IN HAIL OF GUNFIRE. --IN TONDELA, ON AUGUST 11 OFFICES OF PCP AND MDP/CDE WERE SACKED AND CONTENTS BURNED IN STREET. NO INJURIES REPORTED. IN BOTH CASES, ATTACKERS HAD PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED IN VISEU RALLY IN SUPPORT OF MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT.

3. REACTION TO MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT: COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 (PRO-PAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF MADE PUBLIC ON AUGUST 11 THE CONTENT OF TWO STATEMENTS ATTACKING MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. FIRST STATEMENT, DATED AUGUST 6 AND DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES LAST WEEK, WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF ROLE CAPT. VASCO LOURENCO ALLEGEDLY PLAYED IN ATTEMPTING TO HAVE J-5 DISBANDED. IT CHARGED THAT VASCO LOURENCO CONSPIRED WITH SOCIALISTS IN CLEAR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY EFFORT. DOCUMENT CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AND SUSPENSION OF VASCO LOURENCO IN INTERIM. IT ALSO CALLED FOR THOSE MILITARY MEN MAKING ALLEGATIONS OF COMPLICITY BETWEEN J-5 AND COMMUNISTS TO PRESENT PROOF OR FACE MILITARY DISCIPLINE. SECOND STATEMENT WAS DIRECT ATTACK ON MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT, WHICH J-5 CHARGED WAS DIVISIONIST MANEUVER MOTIVATED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

4. SOCIALISTS ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 12 SUPPORTING COPCON ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST TWO REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS WHO SIGNED MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. PF HAS SCHEDULED DEMONSTRATION IN EVORA AUGUST 12 IN SUPPORT OF ONE OF SIGNERS, GENERAL PEZARAT CORREIA, REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER FOR SOUTH.

5. ROSA COUTINHO STATEMENT: ADM. ROSA COUTINHO, IN AUGUST 11 RADIO INTERVIEW, REAFFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT "...THE TRUE ENEMY OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION IS INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM." ROSA COUTINHO ALLEGED THAT FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM WERE EXPLOITING WIDESPREAD ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF COUNTRY IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT REAL ENEMY WAS COMMUNISM. BUT, HE ADDED, WE KNOW THAT A COMMUNIST PARTY REPRESENTING ONLY 13 PERCENT OF THE PORTUGUESE ELECTORATE IN NO WAY WOULD FRIGHTEN THE FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM.

6. UDP SUMMONS MEMBERS: THE FAR-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) ISSUED CALL AUGUST 12 FOR ALL PARTY ACTIVISTS AND SYMPATHIZERS NOW ON VACATION TO RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF ORGANIZATION. ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL MAY REQUIRE A PROMPT RESPONSE AT ANY MOMENT TO PREVENT EXPLOITATION BY "REACTIONARY FORCES."

7. DANISH PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES: PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN OF DENMARK ARRIVED IN LISBON AUGUST 11 FOR A SHORT VISIT. SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES WAS AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE LISBON AIRPORT TO GREET JORGENSEN, WHO IS ALSO LEADER OF HIS COUNTRY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

8. COMMENT: SOURCES CLOSE TO PINTO SOARES TOLD DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT PINTO SOARES' STATEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO BOTH SIDES IN DIVIDED RC. TO VASCO GONCALVES ET AL. THE MESSAGE WAS THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS IN DANGER OF LOSING ITS WAY IN A CONTINUED MOVE TO THE LEFT; TO MELO ANTUNES, ET AL. THE MESSAGE WAS THAT THE WAY TO CHANGE THINGS WAS NOT THROUGH PROMOTION OF FURTHER DIVISIONS WITHIN THE AFM BUT TO WORK WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED STRUCTURE TO CORRECT THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION. PINTO
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SOARES IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF BOTH VASCO GONCALVES AND VASCO LOURENCO. HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO BALANCE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS WITH DEEPLY FELT RESERVATIONS ABOUT COURSE OF REVOLUTION AND AS RESULT, HAS PLEASED NO ONE, LEAST OF ALL MELO ANTUNES AND THE "MODERATES."

9. ROSA COUTINHO'S COMMENTS ON THE EVILS OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM ARE NOT NEW. ALTHOUGH TACTICALLY HE HAS LENT HIS SUPPORT TO VASCO GONCALVES ON ISSUE OF MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT, HE CONTINUES TO BE MOTIVATED MAINLY BY PERSONAL AMBITION. (REFTEL B).
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